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The Spoilers Are Coming-Part Two

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Not Everyone Who Says To Me, Lord, Lord Will Enter The Kingdom Of Heaven...

PART I: REVIEW

What a terrible experience it would be to hear the following words from Jesus!

"I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!" ¹

The English Bible translations define "practice Lawlessness" in these ways; the King James Version; workers of iniquity, Amplified; disregarding my commands, Completed Jewish Bible; workers of lawlessness, New American Standard Bible Updated Edition; you who practice lawlessness, NIV; evil doers, and the NASB; you who practice lawlessness. Here is the actual meaning of the phrase; NT:458 anomía; lawless. Lawlessness. In the NT it means not the absence of the Law, but the violation of Law, i.e., transgression or lawlessness, it places stress, not in a subjective law that we ourselves create for our convenience, but chiefly in a divinely instituted Law. ²

The phrase "who practice lawlessness" simply stated means the rejection of God's Laws for subjective traditions and manmade practices that replace the divinely instituted laws of God's Word. In a letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul warns his spiritual son about these skewed practices and the rejection of God's laws by giving him implicit instructions about how to interact with spoilers. He tells Timothy; *"from such turn away."* ³

In a letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul warns his spiritual son about religious spirits and gives him implicit instructions about how to interact with them by telling him this; *"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."* ⁴

PART II: THE SPOIERS ARE COMING

"So you will recognize them by their fruit. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what my Father in heaven wants. On that Day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we expel demons in your name? Didn't we perform many miracles in your name?' Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'" ⁵

The dreadful point about the above verse is that it refers to those who consider themselves to be followers of Jesus Christ. These individuals thought they were believers doing righteous works, yet.....Jesus says I never knew you... and you were a worker... of lawlessness. What a shock this will be to those who hear it. Now that we have an understanding of lawlessness it easier to comprehend why Jesus said; *"Do not think that I have come to do away with or undo the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to do away with or undo but to complete and fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until the sky and earth pass away and perish, not one smallest letter nor one little hook [identifying certain Hebrew letters] will pass from the Law until all things [it foreshadows] are accomplished. Whoever then breaks or does away with or relaxes one of the least [important] of these commandments and teaches men so shall be called least [important] in the kingdom of heaven, but he who practices them and teaches others to do so shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."* ⁶

I just looked out my office window and the sky and earth had not passed away yet! So it appears even the smallest letters and hook in the Hebrew letters known as the Tanakh (Torah, Prophets & Writings) are still current. I want to express my gratefulness to Lord because now I will not need a complex theological definition explaining why the law of God has passed away. Those who will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven are re-modeling the narrow gate and resurfacing the hard road into a broad boulevard without driving laws.

Consider the following road conditions; *"Go in through the narrow gate; for the gate that leads to destruction is wide and the road broad, and many travel it; but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Beware of the false prophets! They come to you wearing sheep's clothing, but underneath they are hungry wolves!"* ⁷

The Apostle John who knew Jesus best said; *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* ⁸

The result of Hungry wolves within the Christian church is a widespread breakdown of morals and godliness. They contend that "thou shalt not" is unacceptable because the biblical laws have passed away and have no application for New Testament believers. I was recently listening to an evangelical radio station in the metro area where I live. The radio host is a Senior Pastor who I know. This local pastor said; that Christians no longer have to obey the law and this included the Ten Commandments. If this is true why would Jesus say this; *"Do not think that I have come to do away with or undo the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to do away with or undo but to complete and fulfill them."* ⁹

When I came to the Lord Jesus Christ in Asia I was a twenty one year old on his way home from the Viet-Nam war. My life was on a broad path leading to destruction. The man who led me to Christ made it clear about my need to go through the narrow gate (Jesus) and my need for the Holy Spirit and God's Word to take me down the hard road of personal healing and behavioral change. This man walked the talk and set a Godly example. I quit smoking, getting high and weekly drunkenness, dealt with anger, cussing etc. etc. etc. It was a hard and narrow road! I read the bible every chance I had, skipped lunch many days to pray in the chapel and when asked by others I told them how God was helping me. I was saved and Jesus Christ became the LORD of my life inwardly and outwardly!

The message of the Post Modern, Seeker Friendly, Purpose Driven, Prosperity and Emergent Church movements is a gospel that is wide like a boulevard. Jesus said you will know them by their fruit. Within these movements there is a pressure and thrust for an inclusive politically correct social gospel. This hybrid religious system is impacting the church and nothing is narrow or hard anymore. Eastern mysticism known as yoga is being taught at many pastor conferences and labyrinths are being built in church yards and sanctuaries so congregation members can center themselves while praying in or on the labyrinth.¹⁰

Everything is open for interpretation and the Narrow Way is now called Broadway Boulevard. Even the theology of how to become saved is being revisited. Yet, fornication adultery, drug addiction, pornography, pedophilia, living together out of wedlock, homosexuality and secret sexual sin is front page news and almost common place. Moral failures of clergy have fostered books and courses based on the testimonies of spoilers. They discuss restoration void of repentance because; *"Everyone who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness; for [that is what] sin is, lawlessness (the breaking, violating of God's law by transgression or neglect — being unrestrained and unregulated by His commands and His will)."*¹¹

Can God forgive, absolutely if we confess our sins? Do these stories of moral failure have to be center stage in the church with profit being made? No! In reality they are a reproach upon the gospel of Jesus Christ and they are a result of departing from the path leading to life. Like it or not God's Word stands as the absolute frame work for how mankind should behave. Someone once said to me "do you want to be right or have relationship?" My response was and still is; "I want to have a right relationships based on God's Word."

I am going to make a broad statement. It has been my experience that the larger a church or Christian organization becomes the more it tends to develop its own momentum and the less it depends on the Holy Spirit's sustaining power and the authority of God's Word. Mammon (money) becomes a surrogate Holy

Spirit and leads the expansion and decision processes. I have had confrontational conversations with leaders that use methods that are simply unbiblical, yet the justification always ends as, look how many people have gathered for the event or we are experiencing unprecedented numerical growth.

The above statements are never the acid test that God is approving and blessing what is done in His name. The bible actually records this; *"In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."*¹²

In clearer terms Jesus says this about mankind's attraction to crowds, signs and wonders by saying; *"And many false prophets will rise up and deceive and lead **many** into error. And the love of the **great** body of people will grow cold because of the multiplied **lawlessness** and iniquity; For false Christ's and false prophets will arise, and they will show great signs and wonders so as to deceive and lead astray, if possible, even the elect (God's chosen ones). See, I have warned you beforehand. But he who endures to the end will be saved."*¹³

What does endure to the end mean? In Matthew 24 Jesus didn't say be troubled by earthquakes, wars and famines, but encourages us by telling us these things must come to pass before He returns. His warnings about enduring to the end is, don't get deceived by false teachers and lawlessness behavior. Jesus repeats this warning three times in His description of what the times will be like prior to His returning. There is another curious phrase in this text; if possible... even the very elect could be deceived. What keeps believers (the elect) from being led astray? It is obeying the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation and walking in obedience to it. It is not an Old Way and a New Way, it is the COMPLETE WAY! The bible is a seamless book. Let me summarize it like this; The Old Testament is the New Testament hidden and the New Testament is The Old Testament revealed, in other words a seamless Word from God to mankind, Paul said; *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*¹⁴

I read a report from a ministry that said orbs were floating over the people in their meetings and that a golden one was seen hovering over the speaker. It went on to describe them as angel finger prints. They stated in their email that these angel orbs had different blessings associated with them and when released onto the crowd produced various signs and wonders. Orbs are nothing new... they are common in new age mysticism and the occult.

At this point you might ask, does this author believe in signs and wonders? Absolutely! But the experiential never supersedes the written Word in discerning or testing signs and wonders! In other words do not be moved by a sign or

wonder, if it diverts away from His laws, precepts and sound biblical precedent especially if signs and wonders become center stage. If we, the "very elect" understand His word we will not succumb to deception no matter how experientially exciting it might seem to be. The Written Word of God is always the source for testing the spirits. *"Don't quench the Spirit, don't despise inspired messages. But do test everything — hold onto what is good, but keep away from every form of evil."*¹⁵

Both Jesus and the Apostle Paul reveal that there will be apostate leaders (spoilers) with followers (the spoiled) who say Lord, Lord yet are rejected at the end of this age; *"Let no one deceive or beguile you in any way, for that day will not come except the apostasy comes first [unless the predicted **great** falling away of those who have **professed** to be Christians has come."*¹⁶

What God caused to be narrow and hard, man has made wide and easy. In the end, however, God will judge in accordance to His Laws and not by our experiences or how much mammon was used to manipulate and facilitate crowds. It is paramount that God corrects us during our lives on earth before we cry out Lord, Lord only to hear, *"I never knew you! Get away from me!"* In the Tanakh (O.T.) we find definition and clarity about deception and are given the standard of how to test and discern if signs and wonders are from God.

*"If a prophet or someone who gets messages while dreaming arises among you and he gives you a sign or wonder, and the sign or wonder comes about as he predicted when he said, 'Let's follow other gods (false practices of the nations), which you have not known; and let us serve them,' you are not to listen to what that prophet or dreamer says. For Adonai your God is **testing you**, in order to find out whether you really do love Adonai your God with all your heart and being. You are to follow Adonai your God, fear him, **obey** his mitzvoth (commandments), listen to what he says, serve him and cling to him;"*¹⁷

My concern is that some who read this eJournal will continue following deceptive religious whim's and hear *"depart from me I never knew you."* Why, because the watchman's alarm to remain or return to the authority of God's word will be dismissed in order to be religiously vogue. Even as I write this exhortation, our nation and the world is moving rapidly into a New World Order. Wars and rumors of wars with frequent earth quakes and famines are constantly reported. Radical nations sworn to destroy Israel are becoming nuclear and lawlessness is common place in our cities, nation, churches and even our families. Ask yourself, Who Am I Listening Too?

From the 1980's to this New Millennium a behavioral shift within the Christian World has happened, many rarely leave the distractions of this world for any

length of time. Seldom is the harness of bible obedience worn long enough to discover spiritual gifts, let alone mature in the gifts or calling of His Spirit.

Ask yourself these questions.

1. When was the last time I gave of myself in a way that interfered, or interrupted my selflife and enhanced the Kingdom of God?
2. Does spiritual activity have to function within my comfort zone?
3. Do I only accept spiritual assignments if they do not disrupt professional and personal pursuits?
4. Does my daily life deplete me in such a way that I don't have time or energy for spiritual ministry that is measureable?
5. Do I handle my money appropriately by tithing, giving alms and supporting kingdom endeavors, have a prayer life, read my bible, and obey God's Word from Genesis to Revelation?
6. Do I belong to a bible believing fellowship of believers who believe the whole book is for today?
7. Is secret disobedience in my life (sin, bitterness, envy, strife, factions etc).

If you struggled with any of these questions I would Teshuvah repent and return immediately! Let me say it plainly; when was the last time your Christian faith required sacrifice from you? I do not mean trying to attend church services or pre-planned fellowship gatherings, nor do I mean not lying, stealing, cheating, fornicating, drunkenness etc. Not sinning or walking in the works of the flesh including attending church fellowship gatherings are not sacrifices.....they are a Christian's reasonable service.¹⁸

It is time to ask; where is your faith house located and how is it being built? Is it built with a faulty foundation made from the cares, anxieties of the world and the distractions of this present age? Have the pleasures, delights, false glamour and deceitfulness of career, self indulgences, and personal selfishness become the building materials of your house? Has this progressed to the point that you don't have time to go to church, fellowship, tithe or give generously to something outside of self interests? Listen to what the bible says about such behavior; *"if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."*¹⁹

Will you get into heaven by the skin of your teeth and find nothing but an ash heap representing a life time of selfish pursuits? ²⁰ The signs of the times shout loudly... return to biblical patterns in order to clean up the debris of "Christianity without sacrifice." It is time to overcome legitimate and illegitimate pleasures and let go of good things that just don't matter turn away from the spoilers who ask for your gold so that they can develop new golden calves.²¹

The transformation in this period of history demands a John the Baptist life of personal denial. Believers have to manage their blessings, instead of squandering them.²² Repentance, self denial, sacrifice and prayer will establish fresh dimensions of intimacy with the Father and the selfish need for personal preeminence will give way to Jesus.²³ The paradigm shift is; I VOLUNTEER AND VOLUNTARILY SAY, "YES," to obedience, dedication while placing His purposes, His kingdom and the community of the saints before me.

Those who do not enter through the narrow gate are going to be vulnerable to a surge of deceiving spirits, false teachers, deceptive miracles, and the great apostasy that the scripture warns everyone to avoid.²⁴ They will be increasingly blown by every wind of doctrine and Christian fad, why, because they have not heeded Jesus' warning and are following deceivers down a wide pathway. If the above questions convicted you, heed the watchman's warning, repent and return to the narrow way that leads to life, be one of the few who find it!

What a terrible experience it would be to follow a spoiler only to hear these words from Jesus!

"I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"²⁵

My Prayer Is When You Say "Lord, Lord" You Hear This... *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."²⁶*

Blessings, Pastor Bob Hill

Renewed Hope Ministries

¹ Matt 7:20-23 NKJV

² From The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993

³ 2 Timothy 3:5 KJV

⁴ 2 Timothy 3:5 KJV

⁵ Matt 7:20-23

⁶ Matt 5:17-19

⁷ Matt 7:13-15 CJB

⁸ 1 John 5:3 KJV

⁹ Matt 5:17 AMP

¹⁰ <http://labyrinth.georgetown.edu>. A labyrinth is symbolic of the journey to the center of yourself. "I thought of a labyrinth of labyrinths, of one sinuous spreading labyrinth that would encompass the past and the future and in some way involve the stars." --Jorge Luis Borges, from "The Garden of Forking Paths."

¹¹ 1 John 3:4 AMP

¹² Luke 12:1 KJV

¹³ Matt 24:11-25 AMP

¹⁴ 2 Tim 2:15 KLV

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- ¹⁵ 1 Thess 5:19-22
 - ¹⁶ 2 Thess 2:3
 - ¹⁷ Deut 13:2-5 CJB
 - ¹⁸ Romans 12:1-3
 - ¹⁹ Matthew 7:26-27 Msg. Commentary
 - ²⁰ Luke 12:19-21
 - ²¹ Exodus 13:21
 - ²² Deut. 8 all, specifically 11-20
 - ²³ John 12:32
 - ²⁴ Matt. 24 & 2Tim 4
 - ²⁵ Matt 7:20-23 NKJV
 - ²⁶ Matt 25:23 NKJV